

## Becoming Effective!

When Jesus Christ asked the people how salt could **regain its effectiveness** as salt, He didn't give them an immediate **solution** as an answer ...but He gives **instructions**.

- It is incredible that salt could even lose its saltiness in the first place! He was not talking about a mixed earthy substance that simply *tasted* salty but His question was that of when "salt becomes unsalted" (a phenomena in itself) then how would it be "resalted"?!

Immediately, in asking them this question, He sets out on a "roll of explanations" of how they should go about **regaining an effective life!**

They had never been taught to think this way! This was tough stuff ...since they knew the Man Who spoke these things was undoubtedly the **most effective man** in their lives!

Thousands were coming out of the city to hear Him. Even in the early mornings they made their way to find and listen to Him!

The power of Jesus' message is the same today as then!

Most would be **unwilling to even admit to being ineffective**.

We are convinced enough to listen and agree but most of the time that's where it stops. Think of it! Don't lay the responsibility of obedience on the other. Deal with it yourself!

Jesus doesn't ask us to search our lives to "**see**" if we are **effective** or **ineffective**.

He tells us now (as then) how to get going on **becoming effective** since that's what we were born for: "to be effective".

How do we "get salted" again? Is it possible?

Yes, by Divine empowering during human responsibility. In this part of our lives He will not do the job entirely on His own though' He will always will be the source of Eternal Effectiveness!

Let's read and think of how Jesus Christ teaches to **become effective; penetrating** the lives of our friends, brothers, sisters,

enemies, and even learning that **acceptable worship to God** requires **restitution with man** as well as **humility before God!**

Yes, it is possible to start even now "**becoming effective**". It is tiring (isn't it?) pretending to be effective when it can be reality instead of pretense: impacting the community, the tasks we do, the lives of those with whom we daily mix; the people we like and those we don't like; dealing with "bad words" carelessly spoken yet with serious consequences.

Even as you read this right now, His voice is probing the depths of your heart! It's an eternal question, packed with practicality! Jesus' message is not that *He* will do these things but that *we His disciples* must do these things!

On the one hand, the vast majority have a **longing to be effective** in this world ...no matter the circumstance! Each longs for that powerful "salt quality" which can and will stop the process of decay when as salt we are willing to step right into the rot and let God's power be seen and felt through our obedience.

He tells us exactly what to do to overcome the barriers, the walls of obstruction which hinder or even stop the effectiveness God has given for us to experience!

Some of those instructions as to just how to overcome the barriers to effective living were **much more than "hurdles"**! They were more like "**walls**". **However**, these wall-like barriers could be faced head on successfully! The Lord Jesus Christ pushed for taking His instructions seriously!

Don't just "listen to the message" instead of "doing it".

Yes, it's *costly* on a *personal level*! We have a **profound desire to be effective** in this life and yet we *have an aversion* to **becoming effective** in the way Jesus Christ tells us!

Matthew ch.5:

**Anger** is the first barrier. It must be overcome or it destroys us! It must be reckoned with seriously as it has more serious consequences in us than in the person with whom we're angry!

**Unresolved friction** with our brothers and sisters in Christ is next on His list! There is no acceptable worship to God unless this is dealt with. It renders our "worship" **ineffective**, time after time, matter how "moved" we feel in spirit when before God we sing, pray and praise in all the meetings we attend! Jesus says we can only be effectively accepted by God in our worship **if we have put right those things that are wrong between brothers and sisters in Christ.**

It mustn't be "**left for next week**" yet the sad reality is: many will read this and keep marching onwards, ineffectively -all the while longing for meaning! This is a shocking statement He makes since we do tend to come to "**worship God**" more easily than we "**go to right the wrongs**" we have with brothers and sisters in Christ!

**Swift action to get right** with those who have chosen to repay us for the hurt we gave them! Good advice!

**Unresolved friction** through debts of all kinds: money, harsh thoughts and words of hurt cause us to be in danger of serious consequences!

Why not follow the advice of Jesus Christ and see the happiness and lasting satisfaction this powerful and wise advice brings to you as many who will be **effectively blessed** through you! At the same time, you will see the powerful influence He makes in your life and others 'round you as you learn to "**become effective**".